

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00853 171449Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

----- 116823

R 171435Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6290

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0853

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PDIP LE SY

SUBJ: POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS BETWEEN  
LEBANON AND SYRIA

REF: BEIRUT 0885, DAMASCUS 0428

1. I HAVE TAKEN QUIET SOUNDINGS WITH VARIETY SYRIAN  
PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL CONTACTS ABOUT LIKELY SYRIAN  
INTEREST IN EXCHANGING DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WITH  
LEBANON. BOTH BAATH PARTY AND NON-PARTY CONTACTS  
WITH WHOM I HAVE SPOKEN CONSIDER THAT THIS IS  
MOST UNLIKELY PROPOSAL FOR SARG TO MAKE. THEY  
POINT OUT THAT ONE OF THREE PARAMOUNT GOALS OF  
RULING BAATH PARTY IS ARAB UNITY (PLUS "FREEDOM"  
AND "SOCIALISM") AND THAT PARTY WOULD HAVE DIFFICULT  
TIME JUSTIFYING APPARENT STEP BACKWARDS FROM UNITY  
SUCH AS CREATION OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WOULD IMPLY.

2. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT LEBANESE THEMSELVES  
HAVE YET TABLED THIS IDEA WITH SYRIAN LEADERSHIP  
BUT OF COURSE CANNOT RULE IT OUT.  
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, DIPLOMATIC MISSION OPENING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** vogelfj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC00853  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760059-0135  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760244/aaaabmmt.tel  
**Line Count:** 50  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 1  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 BEIRUT 885, 76 DAMASCUS 428  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** vogelfj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>  
**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS BETWEEN LEBANON AND SYRIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PDIP, LE, SY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006